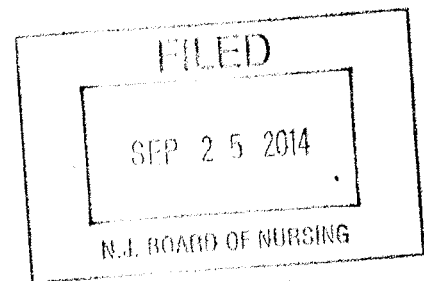


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Newark, New Jersey 07101



By: Shirley Dickstein
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney for the Board of Nursing
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE CERTIFICATION	:	Administrative Action
OF	:	
	:	
TAWANDA BROOKS	:	INTERIM CONSENT ORDER
Certification # 26NH07958500	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A HOMEMAKER-HOME	:	
HEALTH AIDE IN THE STATE OF	:	
NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Tawanda Brooks ("Respondent"), a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey, was arrested on November 19, 2013 by the Jersey City Police Department under N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b (5) (c), for assault on a person engaged in medical services acting in the performance of his duties. Specifically, Respondent was charged with striking a medical provider while being given medical attention. In

response to a Provisional Order of Discipline filed against Respondent on July 25, 2014 for failure to cooperate with a Board investigation into the arrest, Respondent submitted a statement in which she admitted that she was intoxicated at the time of the incident and does not remember what happened but was told that she hit a nurse in the hospital.

The allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in an act constituting a crime or offense which relates adversely to the activity regulated by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f) and is presently engaged in drug or alcohol use (that is, within 365 days) which is likely to impair her ability to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide with reasonable skill and safety in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(1), both of which provide bases for disciplinary action against Respondent's certification.

It appearing that Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into an interim agreement temporarily suspending her certification without making admissions and without prejudice to her ability to defend any action brought based on the above allegations, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown:

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 25 day of September, 2014,

ORDERED:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave to voluntarily surrender her certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey pending the Board's review of the outcome of the evaluation provided for in paragraph 6(d) below. The surrender shall be effective upon the filing of this Order. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, forward her homemaker-home health aide certificate, both wallet and wall versions, to Shirley P. Dickstein, DAG, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07101, on behalf of the Board of Nursing.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding herself out as a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and/or practicing as a homemaker-home health aide, which includes but is not limited to performing delegated nursing regimens or nursing tasks delegated through the authority of a duly licensed professional nurse pending further order of the Board.

3. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of Respondent.

4. The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statutes or regulations governing the homemaker-home health aide practice in the State of New Jersey or any other violations of law, by the Board, the Attorney

General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, any pending matters under investigation.

5. Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from initiating further disciplinary action based upon the conduct relating to Respondent as alleged above or upon disposition of the criminal matter, including, but not limited to, action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:11-24.3 in the event of Respondent's conviction of a disqualifying crime.

6. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey certification in the future, Respondent shall:

- a. Furnish the Board with documentation of the disposition of the criminal charge against her and successful completion of all criminal sentencing terms (if any).
- b. Appear before the Board to discuss her readiness to reenter the practice of homemaker-home health aide.
- c. Provide the Board with evidence that she is capable of discharging the functions of a certificate holder in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that she is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of any addictive substance which could affect her practice.
- d. Provide the Board with an in-depth, current evaluation from a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or psychiatrist or psychologist knowledgeable in addiction therapy who is aware of the circumstances of Respondent's arrest and this Interim Consent Order and who has been pre-approved by the Board. Respondent shall provide documentation that she has complied with all

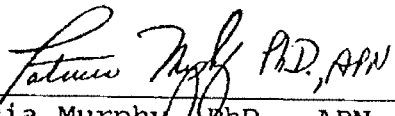
recommendations of the licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or psychiatrist or psychologist.

- e. Affirmatively establish her fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active practice of certified homemaker-home health aide within New Jersey.

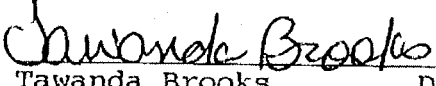
7. The Board reserves the right to place restrictions and/or limitations upon Respondent's certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey in the event that her certification is reinstated.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD., APN, FAAN
President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

 9/15/14
Tawanda Brooks Date